

Appendix II – Participant Information Sheet

Note: page 1 of an MS Forms form in the University of Derby account.

Study Title: How do people who accumulate excessive possessions experience seeking support online?

This research study is interested in people's experiences of seeking online support for gathering a lot of possessions. This is sometimes referred to as "hoarding" or "compulsive collecting" although these are not terms used by everyone. The research is being conducted by Sarah Wickham for an MSc in psychology at the University of Derby, UK.

Not a lot is known about online support for people who gather a lot of possessions, and their experiences of online support. Sarah would like to find out more about this, which could help change people's experiences of accessing or providing online support.

Do I have to take part?

Participation is entirely voluntary and completely your choice.

What happens to me if choose to take part?

Sarah will interview you for 60-75 minutes, using MS Teams. We will arrange a date and time for the interview which is convenient for you. The interview will be audio recorded as Sarah will make a written transcript of the interview. The written transcript will then be used as the data for the study.

You will also be asked to provide some general information about yourself like your age range, gender identity and background. You can choose to provide this information entirely anonymously or not at all.

Will my participation in this study be kept confidential?

Yes, your interview is entirely confidential. Your information will be anonymised in the written transcript and any excerpts which appear in the final report. Only the researcher Sarah Wickham will have access to any information which could identify you. This is because we will correspond by email to arrange an interview time, and to enable you to withdraw from the study if you choose to.

You may choose to use an entirely anonymous email address and to keep your camera turned off during the Teams interview if you prefer.

Your information will only be kept during the period leading up to the interview and up to 2 weeks afterwards and will be stored securely during this time, with access restricted to Sarah and Carrie. Any emails will then be deleted.

Sarah Wickham and Carrie Childs are bound by the UK's data protection laws and the University of Derby's ethical practices.

Can I withdraw from the study?

You can withdraw from the study up until 2 weeks after the date of an interview. After this time the anonymised interview transcript will have been analysed. All your information will be deleted if you withdraw. You do not have to give a reason.

What will happen at the end of the research study?

Sarah will write up her findings in a report which will be graded for her degree (MSc in Psychology at the University of Derby). This may include short, anonymised excerpts from your interview transcript. The information from everyone taking part will be anonymous, and your personal information will always remain confidential. Sarah plans to make her findings more widely available and hopes to publish them in an academic journal after this.

Is the interview like therapy? Will it help me with my possessions?

The interview focusses on your experiences of seeking support online. We regret that we cannot offer advice on your possessions and behaviours in relation to them. The research interview is not therapy or support from a mental health clinician. If you feel you need personal support in this area, the Reddit community includes a very large number of [resources](#) covering many topics and countries.

Has this study been approved?

An Ethics review has been completed on behalf of the College of Health, Psychology and Social Care Research Ethics Committee at the University of Derby, UK. The study has been approved.

What are my rights under the UK's data protection laws?

People with access to your information are highly experienced and have been very careful to ensure the security of your data.

Your consent is the legal basis on which your information is collected and while this allows us to use it for the study, it also means we have obligations towards you to:

- not seek more information from you than what is essential and necessary for the study.
- anonymise your information.
- use your anonymised data only for the purposes of this study as described above.
- store your information safely in password-protected systems to which only the named researchers have access.
- not keep your information for longer than is necessary and safely destroy it by permanently deleting it.

The University of Derby is the Data Controller for this study. This means that the University has overall responsibility for looking after your information and using it properly in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) / Data Protection Act 2018. In the unlikely event that you feel you need to make a complaint regarding the use of your information, you can contact the Data Protection Officer at the University of Derby: James Fussell j.fussell@derby.ac.uk +44 (0) 1332 591056 or the UK Information Commissioners Office +44 (0) 303 123 1113.

I have more questions

Please contact:

Sarah Wickham student ID 100556726 100556726@unimail.derby.ac.uk

Dr Carrie Childs c.childs@derby.ac.uk +44 (0)1332 524286

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. Sarah hopes that you feel able to take part in the study. If you are happy to go ahead please now complete the consent form [*link to consent form in Appendix 3*]. If you prefer not to take part, simply close this browser window.